

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace paragraph [0011] with the following replacement paragraph:

**[0011]** Alternatively, discrete conductive fibers have been used in composite plates in an attempt to reduce the carbon loading and to increase plate toughness see ~~co~~ pending United States Patent Application ~~No. 6,607,857 to, Blunk, et. al., 09/871,189, filed 5/31/04~~ which is assigned to the assignee of this invention, and is incorporated herein by reference. Fibrous materials are typically ten to one thousand times more conductive in the axial direction as compared to conductive powders. Consequently, a polymeric separator plate having a conductive fibrous material disposed therein would increase the electrical conductivity of the plate without having a relatively high concentration of carbon loading which may lead to brittleness. However, to achieve these benefits, the fibrous materials must be properly oriented in a through plane direction. Moreover, a polymeric separator plate having a continuous conductive fibrous members extending therethrough in a through plane orientation would greatly enhance the transfer of electrical energy through the separator plate; however, it is somewhat more complicated to manufacture. See United States Patent Application ~~Serial No. 10/074,913 6,827,747 to Lisi, et. al., filed 2/11/02~~ which is assigned to the assignee of the present invention and is incorporated herein by reference.